

# Combat Airlifter



# FAMILY FEST

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Scarlett, age 1, participates in her first Easter egg hunt with her mother, U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Savanna Smith, 19th Medical Support Squadron medical logistics technician, at Family Fest 2019 at Little Rock Air Force Base on April 27. Family Fest 2019 provided Team Little Rock families with games, a petting zoo, Easter egg hunts, flower potting and many other activities.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRISTINE M. GRUWELL



## **PODCAST FEATURES STORIES**

### **OF RESILIENCE, STRENGTH**

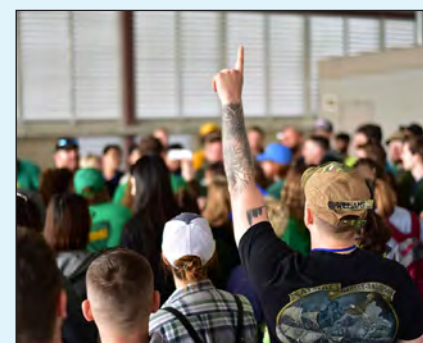
The first of its kind in the Air Force, Blue Grit features conversations with current and former military leaders, mental health experts, elite athletes, veterans and other individuals who have overcome significant adversity.

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## **AIRFIELD DRIVING SAFETY**

Airfield management supervises the airfield driving program for 27 units.

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## **TLR PARTNERS WITH AIRPORT**

### **FOR MASS-CASUALTY EXERCISE**

Team Little Rock Airmen participated as both actors and observers in support of the airport's triennial mass casualty exercise at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock April 23.

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# Blue Grit podcast features stories of resilience, strength

By Lt. Col. Hamilton Underwood

Los Angeles Air Force Base

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) – You may have noticed a recent addition to the Air Force Portal homepage. A logo depicting a warrior looking over his shoulder with a fighter jet above him. It's the face of the Blue Grit podcast. The podcast is the brainchild of U.S. Air Force Maj. Anna Fedotova, Los Angeles Air Force Base psychologist. The first of its kind in the Air Force, Blue Grit features conversations with current and former military leaders, mental health experts, elite athletes, veterans and other individuals who have overcome significant adversity.

The idea for the podcast first occurred to Fedotova in 2017. On a daily basis, she was humbled and inspired by the stories of resilience and strength she heard from patients and colleagues.

"The idea of growth and perseverance has always been captivating to me. My job is to ask questions and listen, so why not try a podcast?" she said.

The fact the she had no funding, official support, experience or equipment didn't deter her from pushing forward with her podcast. Looking back, she laughs, "In retrospect, it was the ideal beginning for a podcast about grit. There was only one way – up!"

Eight months later, with the podcast off and running, Fedotova found herself briefing Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein, about her podcast.

"I didn't do it alone," she is quick to add. "My leadership supported me from the beginning and there have been a hundred helping hands."

Her guests have included author and speaker retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col.

Dave Grossman, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro, who suffered burns over 80 percent of his body from a roadside bomb blast

but continues to serve, and

Dr. Gary Percival, whom many consider to be the father of survival, evasion, resistance and escape psychology.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY VAN HA

U.S. Air Force Maj. Anna Fedotova interviews U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Israel Del Toro for her podcast, Blue Grit. The Blue Grit podcast, which is available on the Air Force Portal, features individuals with an Air Force connection who have overcome significant adversity.

"Blue Grit guests have included several former prisoners of war, mental health practitioners and guests such as Maj. (ret.) Kat Portello, who in the blink of an eye went from being a competitive bodybuilder to being a quadriplegic," Fedotova said. "All of my guests have had unique experiences, but I continue to be surprised at how simple and consistent their techniques are for developing grit."

Blue Grit is not only an opportunity for Fedotova to share techniques, tactics and procedures for developing grit. She

also views it as a venue to have a broader conversation about mental health.

"I wanted a platform to steer the conversation from mental illness towards mental health," she said. "I'm not implying happiness-ever-after. Mental health is about living a meaningful life, having an impact, deliberate practice, discomfort. That is grit."

The Blue Grit podcast can be found on the Air Force Portal, iTunes, SoundCloud, Spotify, Stitcher and Google Podcast.

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# COMBAT AIRLIFTER OF THE WEEK



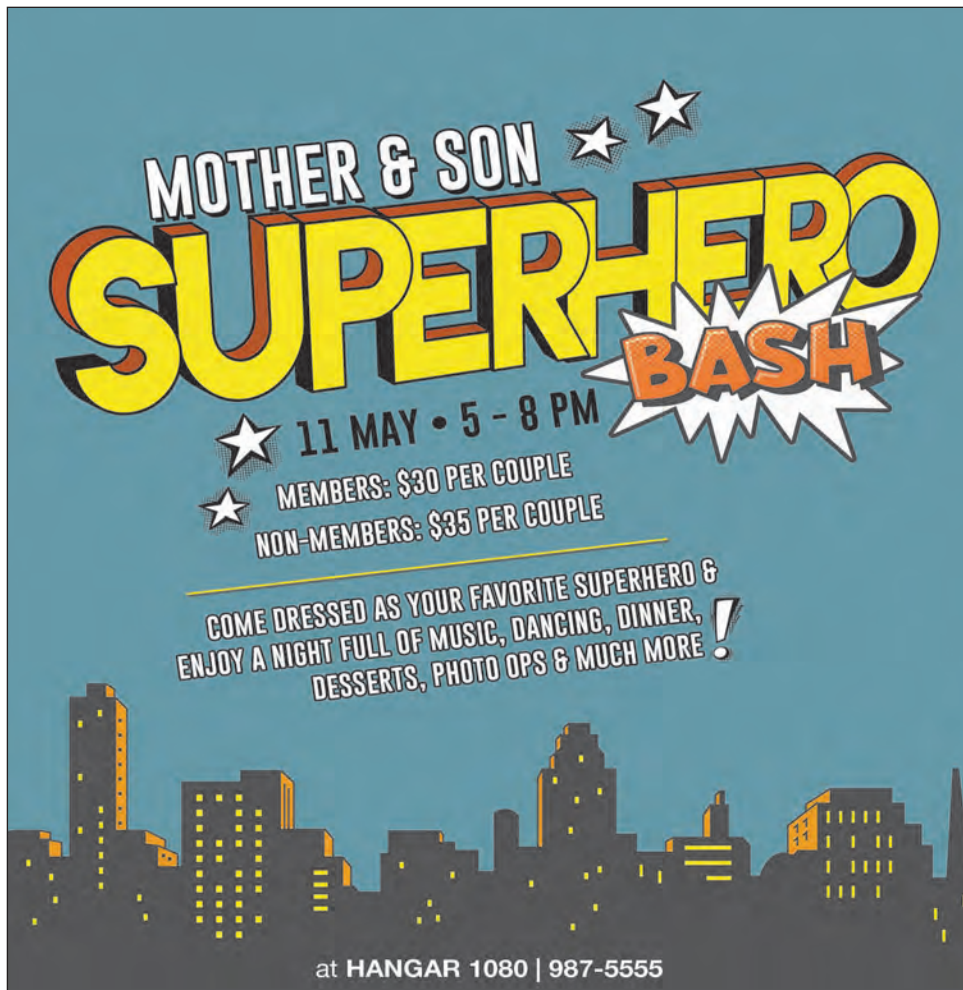
U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS KRISTINE M. GRUWELL

**NAME AND RANK**  
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# Airfield driving safety

19th Operations Support Squadron  
Airfield Management

Airfield management is charged with providing a safe, efficient and effective airfield. Doing that requires a no-days-off mentality.

When driving on the airfield Airmen must maintain constant vigilance. Their actions could be the difference between an ordinary day and a catastrophe. The airfield is one of, if not the most, intense and possibly dangerous areas on base. There is no room for complacency or misinformation.

Airfield management supervises the airfield driving program for 27 units. The program ensures Airmen have proper training on driving procedures, tower light gun signals, and airfield diagrams, as well as how

to drive around aircraft, and how to properly use radio phraseology.

Those who have been around airfields tend to think they know all of the regulations and there's nothing to learn. The airfield is a fluid and ever changing environment, so there is always more to learn.

Airfield management personnel conduct random inspections on airfield drivers daily. We check licenses and ensure drivers are following proper airfield driving procedures.

Our objective is not to bust people; it is to make sure people are following procedures, which includes having proper documentation. If they don't have it, they will be escorted off the airfield regardless of

rank or title. It's all about safety and security.

The most common infractions here at LRAFB are drivers not having their airfield driver's license (AF IMT 483), it being expired, or drivers not knowing that you need a license to drive on flight line road.

Incidents at other bases have added to the increased emphasis on airfield driving safety.

Being knowledgeable about airfield driving regulations is the key to being safe on the airfield. All base personnel who work on or near the flight line should have at least general knowledge of airfield operations or know to contact airfield management at 501-987-6123 or 501-987-6840 if they have questions.



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# Giving back to the military child: Family Fest 2019

Story and photos by  
Airman 1st Class Kristine M. Gruwell  
19th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

More than 2,000 people attended Family Fest 2019 at Little Rock Air Force Base on April 27.

Family Fest attendees had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities such as games, a petting zoo, Easter egg hunts, flower potting and many others. Over 50 Airmen and civilians volunteered their time to support the annual event.

This event was in celebration of the month of the military child, which is recognized as the month of April as a way of acknowledging younger family members whose sacrifices can be sometimes

See Child, 6



(Above) Jayson, a military dependent, plays with blocks at Family Fest 2019 at Little Rock Air Force Base on April 27. Family Fest 2019 provided Team Little Rock families with games, a petting zoo, Easter egg hunts, flower potting and many other activities.

(Left) Family Fest 2019 attendees pet numerous animals at a petting zoo at Little Rock Air Force Base on April 27. Family Fest 2019 provided Team Little Rock the opportunity to celebrate April as the month of the military child to acknowledge younger family members whose sacrifices can be sometimes overlooked.

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**COMBAT  
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# Child

Continued from page 6

overlooked. “Little Rock AFB puts on events like this to bring the base community together,” said Natalie Dove, 19th Force Support Squadron marketing liaison. “We love seeing smiles on people’s faces, and it’s so rewarding to be able to give what we can to others.”

Events like this encourage people to get out of their house and bring the family to a base-sponsored event focused on the military family.

“I volunteer every year to see the families and specifically the kids,” said Mary Bell, Family Fest volunteer. “Seeing their faces light up and being able to help them enjoy themselves is the fun of it all.”



(Above) Children play on gymnastic equipment with supervisors nearby at Family Fest 2019 at Little Rock Air Force Base on April 27. Family Fest 2019 provided Team Little Rock families with games, a petting zoo, Easter egg hunts, flower potting and many other activities.



(Left) Two attendees at Family Fest 2019 pot a flower at Little Rock Air Force Base on April 27. Family Fest 2019 provided Team Little Rock the opportunity to celebrate April as the month of the military child to acknowledge younger family members whose sacrifices can be sometimes overlooked.



## Little Rock Air Force Base

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Firefighters from the Little Rock Fire Department put out a simulated aircraft fire at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock on April 23. Team Little Rock Airmen participated as both actors and observers in support of the airport's triennial mass-casualty exercise. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Aaron Irvin)



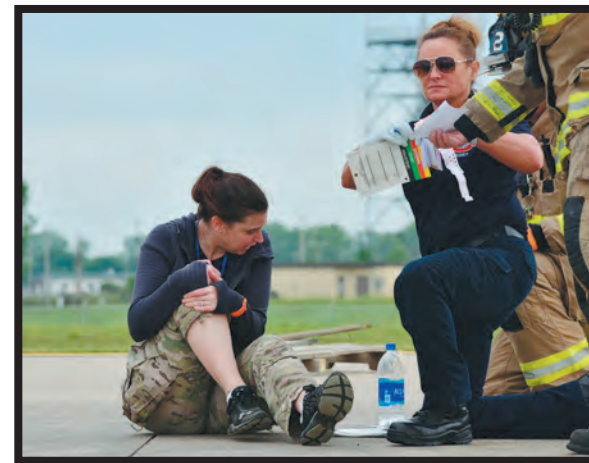
U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. JEREMY MCGUFFIN

Firefighters from the Little Rock Fire Department act as first responders during a simulated aircraft accident at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock on April 23. Team Little Rock Airmen participated as both actors and observers in support of the airport's triennial mass casualty exercise.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

Students from Arkansas Tech University simulate the chaos after an aircraft accident at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock on April 23. Team Little Rock Airmen participated as both actors and observers in support of the airport's triennial mass-casualty exercise.



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN

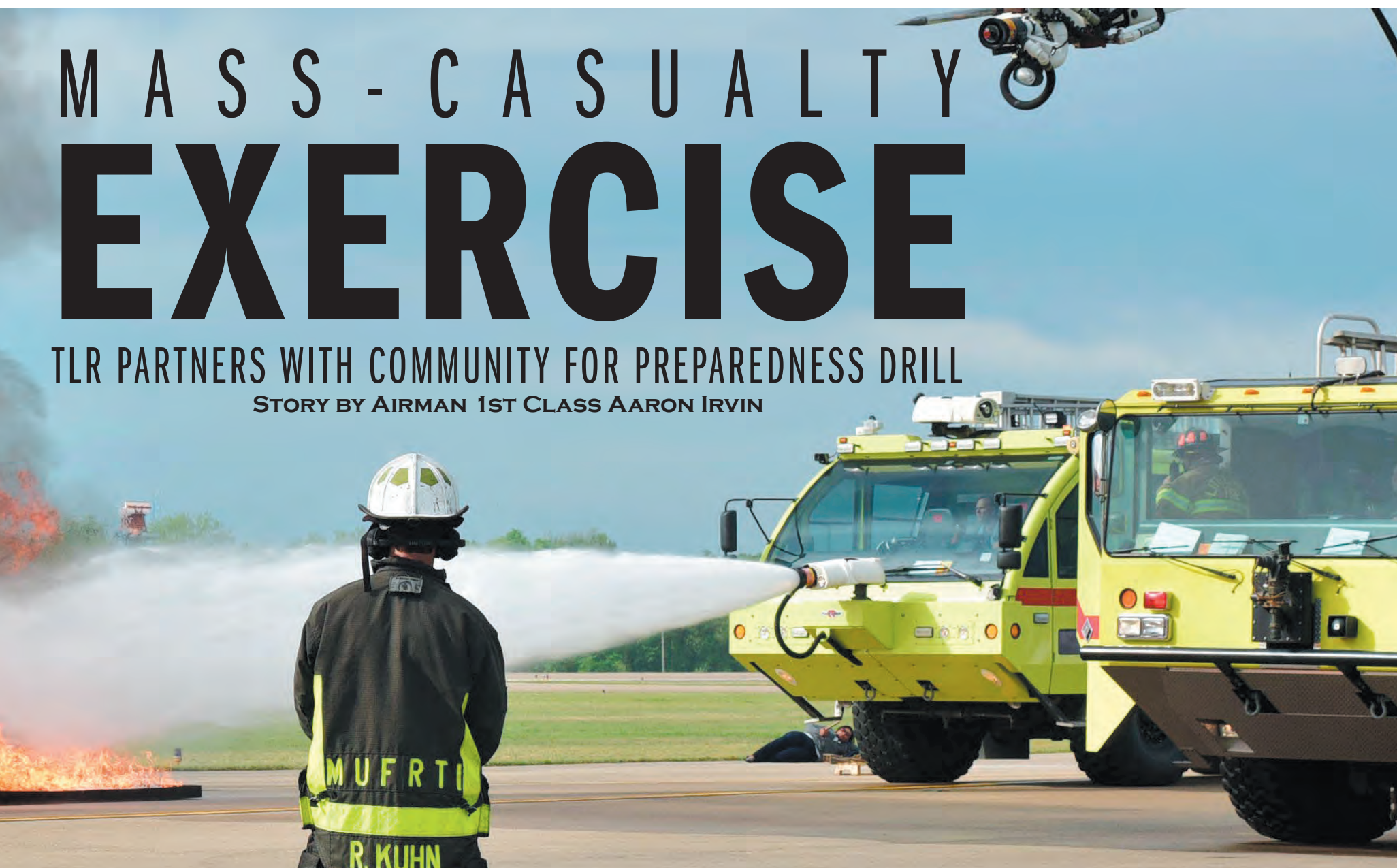
A U.S. Air Force Airman from Little Rock Air Force Base, AR, receives medical help after a simulated aircraft accident at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock on April 23. Team Little Rock Airmen participated as both actors and observers in support of the airport's triennial mass-casualty exercise.



# MASS-CASUALTY EXERCISE

## TLR PARTNERS WITH COMMUNITY FOR PREPAREDNESS DRILL

STORY BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS AARON IRVIN



**A**irmen from Little Rock Air Force Base worked alongside 90 first responders and nearly 100 volunteers to simulate an aircraft accident and response at Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock on April 23.

Team Little Rock Airmen participated as both actors and observers in support of the airport's Federal Aviation Administration required triennial mass-casualty exercise. These exercises are used to provide travelers the safest measures possible during chaotic situations.

"Every three years we bring not only emergency responders that are on the airport, but responders from outside the airport to work together," said Shane Carter, Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport public affairs director. "We have evaluators that are out on the scene who observe and come together at the end of the day to ensure everything

was done correctly and the goal of saving lives was accomplished."

Some Airmen were able to observe and provide feedback on how to improve during an immediate response while working alongside community first responders.

"Being able to be a part of the exercise and witness how they perform, is a great opportunity for all involved," said Master Sgt. Duane Harris, 19th Maintenance Group isochronal production supervisor.

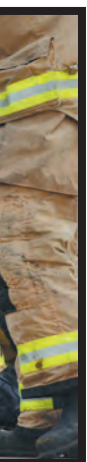
Much like U.S. Air Force exercises, there were a lot of moving parts requiring different teams to work together to accomplish the mission at hand such as: Little Rock Fire Department exercising their ability to put out a jet fire, the police responding alongside emergency medical services to provide simulated medical treatment ensuring the safety of the crash victims, and the Arkansas

Department of Emergency Management setting up a mobile command center to expedite communication between the different units.

"In an actual situation we will need the response teams of our partners throughout the community," Carter said. "Thankfully, we have a great relationship with Little Rock Air Force Base. During emergency activities LRAFB is able to help us, and we can help them as well. These mutual-aid exercises benefit everyone involved."

This exercise was a testament to how partnerships, both internal and with local communities, are integral to building strong, interoperable working relationships.

"Our Airmen constantly train to be prepared for every situation that could come about," Harris said. "It's a great opportunity for the Airmen to volunteer in this exercise and share their knowledge and experience."



AARON IRVIN  
Arkansas,  
t Bill and  
am Little  
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# AMC commander: unleash Airman innovation

By Gen. Maryanne Miller  
Air Mobility Command

I have had the privilege of working for the men and women of Air Mobility Command for seven months now. I quickly came to appreciate the incredible capacity of this exceptionally talented force – the force necessary to ensure we continue achieving mobility objectives in any environment.

Before I took command of AMC, I reflected on the heritage of the many incredible mobility leaders who came before me. I researched their focus areas, their visions, and their many accomplishments. The foundation of their legacy was built on readiness, mission emphasis, modernization and, most importantly, taking care of people. These priorities make up the core of what we do in AMC, and

See **Unleash**, 11



U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY TECH. SGT. JODI MARTINEZ

Gen. Maryanne Miller, Air Mobility Command commander, congratulates the winner of the 2018 AMC Phoenix Spark Tank competition, Staff Sgt. Travis Alton from the 19th Logistics Readiness Squadron, during the Airlift/Tanker Association Symposium in Grapevine, Texas, on Oct. 27, 2018. A/TA, AMC's premier professional development event, provides mobility Airmen an opportunity to learn about and discuss mobility priorities, issues, challenges, and successes. The venue creates dialogue between industry experts and Air Force and Department of Defense about ways to innovate, enhance mission effects and advance readiness headed into the future.

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# Unleash

Continued from page 10

I'm honored to lead our mobility enterprise – enabling a ready, capable, lethal force – now and into the future.

Although our mission doesn't change, the ways and means of executing it will. We can anticipate change in our varying areas of operation, enemy capabilities and the nature of warfare across domains. We must adapt to overcome these challenges – and quickly. We must innovate.

As a Mobility Airman for 30 years, I first flew Military Airlift Command (MAC) missions writing clearances on the aircraft windshield with a grease pencil. Now, I marvel at our electronic flight bags, advanced avionics systems, and the unstoppable team of Airmen who embrace new processes and technology with gusto. When I visit with our Airmen, I meet the most extraordinary young warfighters who embody innovation both at work and in

their homes. Their ability to solve problems while taking calculated risks is truly inspirational.

A few concrete innovation examples across the command include:

■ U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Alex Aguayo from Joint Base Charleston completed a C-17 Wheel Paint Stand project aiming to save maintenance man-hours. His project is being shared with other major commands.

■ U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Eric Holton from MacDill AFB designed a time-saving KC-135 Engine-specific Maintenance Stand that just completed initial fit testing before fielding.

■ U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Shawn Roberge from Fairchild AFB turned his idea of a KC-135 Nose Landing Gear Door Lock that reduces damage during towing operations into a reality and it is already on its way toward inclusion in technical orders.

■ U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Travis Alton from Little Rock AFB presented a Phoenix Spark Tank winning M-1 Cargo Parachute Release Timing Block Fail-Safe

as a potential low-cost solution, preventing early release of cargo chutes during airdrop operations which could save millions of dollars in damage and is going into Phase II testing.

Additionally, Airmen are 3-D printing, writing code and creating their own brilliant solutions to the problems they know best. They have tremendous capability and an unrivaled passion for turning their creativity into something tangible. Airmen want to make our Air Force better. They want to be unleashed. As leaders, it is our respon-

sibility to develop the next generation to be ready and able to compete against our adversaries. Innovation is a critical driving force vital to ensuring we fly, fight and win now and far into the future. Embrace it!

We have the privilege of shaping our people, our assets and our mission. This is a tough job and the most rewarding. It is our duty, an honor and a necessity. Innovation should not be the buzzword of the moment ... it powers our mission. Study the challenges you know better than anyone else, take prudent risks and let's get after it.

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**J.N. Holmes**  
**(501) 758-3090**

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**



6701 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
North Little Rock, AR 72116  
Church Office: 835-2201

Contemporary Worship.....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary Worship.....11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Chapel Service.....6:30 p.m.  
Children/Youth.....6:30 p.m.  
<http://NLRFUMC.org>

**First United  
Methodist  
Church**

308 W. Main • Jacksonville



**8:45 AM**

Sunday School  
(For all ages)

**9:50 AM**

Blended Worship Service  
(Come as you are!)

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Worship Times

Sunday.....10:00 am  
Bible Class.....9:00 am  
Wednesday.....7:00 pm

Church: **982-1333**  
1904 McArthur Dr. • Jacksonville  
[hopelutheranjacksonville.org](http://hopelutheranjacksonville.org)

**IMMANUEL FAMILY  
WORSHIP CENTER**

**Bishop Ricky D. Allen, Senior Pastor**

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**Opportunities for Worship:**

**Sunday Prayer: 9:00 AM**

**Sunday School: 9:30 AM**

**Morning Worship: 11:00 AM**

**Mid Week Pastoral Teaching**

**Wednesday: 6:30 PM**

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Sunday Morning.....10:40 a.m.  
Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday.....6:30 p.m.

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**NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
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<http://NLRFUMC.org>



Pastor Rod Loy

**Weekend Services**

Saturdays at 5:00 P.M.

Sundays at 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 A.M.

Sunday Nights at 6:00 P.M.

**Wednesdays**

Midweek Service at 7:00 P.M.

Reality Student Ministry

Middle School at 6:30 P.M.

High School at 7:30 P.M.

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# COMBAT AIRLIFTER

## CLASSIFIEDS

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE COMBAT AIRLIFTER CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT** will take ads by phone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday 982-9421, or you may mail your ad to 404 Graham Rd., Jacksonville, Ark. 72078. You may also e-mail them to [combatairlifter-classifieds@arkansasleader.com](mailto:combatairlifter-classifieds@arkansasleader.com). Deadline to advertise in Friday's issue is 5 p.m. Tuesday.

### HELP WANTED

**EVERLASTING LIFE** Worship Center in Jacksonville is looking for church musicians/keyboardist or organist, drummer, guitarist & praise/worship leader. Pastor Rodney, (501) 952-9804.

### YARD SALES

**BIG YARD** sale, 5/4, 7 am-2 pm, 135 Maywood, Ward (Merrywood Subdv.) Clothes, home decor, bedding, lots of misc.

**GARAGE SALE**, 5/3 & 4, 8 am-3 pm, 3608 Longstreet St., Jax. Little bit of everything, most items \$5 or less.

**YARD SALE**, May 3 & 4, 2683 Hwy. 31 N, Lonoke, 1 mile from McDonalids.

### HELP WANTED

### HORSES

**HORSES: LUCKY** Acres Boarding Stable, TLC for your horse, box stalls and paddocks, clean pastures, indoor and outdoor arenas, riding instruction and training program. Dressage our specialty. (501) 681-1833.

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**30 GALLON** fish tank, extras & fish, \$75. (501) 259-9765.

**4 MED.** size dogs need new home ASAP, (501) 242-1631, Jason or Kevin.

**2 YR.** old male Schnauzer, neutered, housebroken, all shots, has a few minor health issues. Registered, good family pet. (501) 786-0256, leave msg. or text.

**BEAGLE**, 7 mos., all male, shots current, free to good home, housebroken, affectionate. (719) 553-9281, Beebe.

**MALE MOUNTAIN** Cur, 7 mos. old, free to good home. 941-9578 or 259-3213.

**BLACK & white**, short-haired Husky mix, 3 yrs. old, male, free to good home. House & crate trained, loves outdoors, ropes & bones, good w/ other dogs. Call/text (501) 690-0093.

**2 SMALL** lapdogs & an Alaskan Husky need homes. (501) 596-1601, Jax.

### HELP WANTED

### PETS & SUPPLIES

**FULL-BLOODED MINI-AUSTRALIAN** shepherd, black, 3 mos. old. (501) 266-0127.

**UKC REGISTERED** red boned hound, female. (501) 835-5833.

**PARROLETS, COCKATIELS**, blue birds & quackers. (501) 772-0716, Jax.

**JUNK SALE**, (2) 1-story bird cages, (1) 2-story bird cage, \$35 for all. 982-2262.

### AUTOS/ACCESSORIES

**1949 CHEVY** 1/2 Ton truck, 350 engine, excellent condition, rat rod. (501) 606-6617.

**2000 VOLVO** S-70, runs good, cold air, 125,000 miles, clean, \$1,500. TEXT (501) 952-3937, Jax.

### SERVICES

### AUTOS/ACCESSORIES

**RADIATOR** FOR 318 Dodge & Dodge engine, real 4 core, \$150. (501) 882-2142 or 606-1314, no texts.

**2006 MAZDA** Miata, 5-spd., garage-kept, new tires, shocks, 69k miles, excellent condition, \$7,500. (501) 454-8491, Cabot.

**2007 DODGE** Megacab, lots of new parts, new tires, 229,000 miles, \$9,000 obo. (501) 743-0986.

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**BLUE OX** BXW1003 Sway Pro weight distribution hitch, 1,000 lb. tongue weight, \$100. (318) 707-3470, Cabot.

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### SERVICES

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### RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

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**POLARIS SPORTSMAN** 500, 4-wheel drive, camo., low miles, under 300 hrs., like new, \$3,700 obo. Don, (501) 985-2614 or [hossgantt@yahoo.com](mailto:hossgantt@yahoo.com)

**1985 KING** of the Road, 5th wheel, 40' long. (501) 960-5446.

**5TH WHEEL** trailer hitch, 14,000 lb. capacity, \$400 obo. (501) 286-7268.



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